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TELETYPE

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ACTION: POL-2

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ROME 7093
RECD 20 JUL 73

INFO AME DCM ECON DAD
PAO/ AID/D CHRON *DB*

O 191340Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9896
INFO RUQVLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 166
RUFHGV/AMEMBASSY GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1835
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 4549
RUQVGM/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 299
RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 5432
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 810
RUSEAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 485
RUFAPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 7923
RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 330
BT

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E.O.: 11652

TACS: PFOR AF PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN GOUP: ALLEGED MEETING BETWEEN KING ZAHIR AND BHUTTO

REF: KABUL 5276 (NOTAL)

1. REGARDING REPORT OF MEETING IN ROME BETWEEN PAK PRESIDENT BHUTTO AND KING ZAHIR (LAST PARA, REFTEL), FONOFF HERE DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH MEETING AND STRONGLY DOUBTS IT COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE. BHUTTO DEPARTED FROM HERE JULY 16 FOR GENEVA (FOLLOWING CANCELLATION OF WASHINGTON VISIT) AND IS BELIEVED TO BE STILL THERE. ACCORDING FONOFF, ZAHIR IS CLOSETED IN COMMUNICATION IN AFGHAN EMBASSY HERE WITH NO REPEAT NO INDICATION AS TO HIS IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS. AFGHAN EMBASSY HAS PROMISED TO KEEP FONOFF INFORMED AS TO KING'S MOVEMENTS.

2. FONOFF ALSO DOUBTS THAT ZAHIR AND BHUTTO WERE IN CONTACT DURING BHUTTO'S STAY IN ROME JULY 13-16, ALTHOUGH FONOFF DOES NOT REPEAT NOT OUT POSSIBILITY OF A TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. IT IS CERTAIN THAT KING REMAINED IN ISCHIA DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. ON QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN REGIME, FONOFF SOURCE SAYS THAT MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND THAT NO DECISION WILL BE TAKEN UNTILL INTERNAL SITUATION FURTHER CLARIFIED.

4. CONTRAR

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4. CONTRARY TO WHAT FONOFF LED US TO EXPECT EARLIER, WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY AFGHAN EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING COUP DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, PAK EMBASSY DID ASK, AND WE GAVE THE GIST OF KAEUL TEL 5220.VCLPE

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